

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 865

By West

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Paul Harris, the Founder of Rotary International.

WHEREAS, this legislative body is proud to specially recognize and honor the memory of those individuals whose legacy of service and community spirit continues to thrive many decades after their passing; and

WHEREAS, one such legendary individual was Paul Harris of Chicago, Illinois, who, on February 23, 1905, formed the original Rotary Club, the world's first service-club organization; and

WHEREAS, an attorney by trade, Mr. Harris established the Rotary Club in an effort to recapture in a Chicago professional club the same friendly spirit he had felt in the small Vermont towns of his youth, to promote working together to improve the lives of the less fortunate in their community; and

WHEREAS, taking the name "Rotary Club", which was derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members' offices, the organization quickly grew and by 1921 clubs had been organized on six continents which led to a name change in 1922 to "Rotary International"; and

WHEREAS, Paul Harris was elected President of the National Association of Rotary Clubs at first convention in 1910; in 1911, convention speakers inspired the adoption of the motto "Service, Not Self" which ultimately became the Rotary International motto, "Service Above Self"; and

WHEREAS, during and after World War II, Rotarians became increasingly involved in promoting international understanding and, in 1947, upon the death of Paul Harris, an

outpouring of donations to the Rotary Foundation made in his honor, led to the establishment of the Ambassadorial Scholarships, the first Foundation program; and

WHEREAS, today Rotary International boasts a membership of over 30,000 clubs with over 1,200,000 members in 164 countries, all striving to help make the world a better place in which to live; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his exemplary life of service and accomplishment, Paul Harris was selected as one of 70 outstanding American volunteers who will be honored through a new national memorial in Washington, D.C., on a one-mile path adjacent to the White House and the United States Treasury Department; and

WHEREAS, when completed and dedicated by mid-2004, "The Extra Mile" Volunteer Pathway will feature bronze medallions with a likeness of each honoree, a description of his or her achievements and/or a quotation; Rotary International is currently raising \$50,000 to provide this lasting tribute to Paul Harris that will be viewed annually by an estimated 1.7 million visitors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate that we recognize the dedication and commitment of this exemplary gentleman whose legacy has touched the lives of Tennesseans, Americans and citizens of the world for generations past and those yet to come; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Paul Harris, Founder of Rotary International, for his vision, his selflessness and his contributions to making this a better world for all.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.